

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06721 101457 Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 RSR-01 /094 W

----- 025702

R 101447 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4958

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06721

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, US, SU, FR, UK, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG PLANS TO RAISE HESS ISSUE WITH SOVIETS
DURING BREZHNEV VISIT

REF: BONN 5762

SUMMARY: IN MAY 9 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, FONOFF REP
CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT FRG WILL RAISE
WITH SOVIETS INCREASINGLY ACTIVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ISSUE OF RELEASE OF RUDOLPH HESS FROM SPANDAU PRISON
DURING BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG MAY 18-22. END SUMMARY.

1. OUR FONOFF SOURCE TOLD US FRG WILL RAISE QUESTION
WITH SOVIETS ON TWO LEVELS: (A) FONMIN SCHEEL WILL
INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GROMYKO ON POLITICAL LEVEL,
POINTING OUT THAT SOVIET INSISTENCE ON CONTINUED
INCARCERATION OF HESS (AND, INCIDENTALLY, MAINTENANCE
OF SPANDAU PRISON) HAS BECOME MINOR IRRITANT IN FRG-
SOVIET RELATIONS. SCHEEL WILL POINT OUT THAT SOVIET
POSITION ON HESS IS NOT EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY FRG
POPULATION IN GENERAL; GERMANS SEE HESS SIMPLY AS AN OLD,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 06721 101457 Z

PROBABLY SICK MAN WHO HAS PAID HIS PENALTY FOR ASSOCIATION WITH A CAUSE WHICH NO LONGER PRESENTS THREAT TO SOVIETS. (B) ON HUMANITARIAN LEVEL, PRESIDENT HEINEMANN WILL RAISE THE QUESTION WITH BREZHNEV TO PRESS FOR RELEASE OF THE 79 YEAR OLD HESS. OUR CONTACT COMMENTED THAT HEINEMANN HAS FELT UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO PUSH ISSUE WITH SOVIETS, IN VIEW OF HIS STRONG REVIEW OF POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT THIEU DURING LATTER' S APRIL VISIT TO BONN (SEE BONN 5322).

2. EVIDENCE OF INCREASED PUBLIC INTEREST IN HESS, ASIDE FROM THE LARGE VOLUME OF MAIL FRG HAS BEEN RECEIVING ON THE SUBJECT (REFTEL), WAS PROVIDED BY MAY 6 RALLY IN BONN. THE PEACEFUL RALLY, SPONSORED BY THE " SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING FREEDOM FOR RUDOLPH HESS", FEATURED A SPEECH BY HESS' S SON WOLF RUEDIGER, AND MANAGED TO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE (1,200) THAN THE ORGANIZERS THEMSELVES HAD EXPECTED. ONE PAMPHLET, DISTRIBUTED AT THE DEMONSTRATION STRESSED NOT ONLY HUMANITARIAN REASONS FOR HESS' S RELEASE, BUT ALSO THE GREAT EXPENSE FOR FRG INVOLVED IN CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF SPANDAU PRISON WITH ITS ONE PRISONER. ANOTHER PAMPHLET REPORTED THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAD ALREADY RAISED THE ISSUE OF HESS' S RELEASE WITH BREZHNEV, AND HAD RECEIVED A NEGATIVE REPLY. THE SPONSORING SOCIETY, WHICH CLAIMS 2,400 MEMBERS, URGED BRANDT TO BRING UP SUBJECT AGAIN DURING TALKS WITH BREZHNEV.

3. SEVERAL SMALL PLANES HAD TRAILED BANNERS ABOVE BONN CALLING FOR HESS' S RELEASE DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON MAY 5, PROBABLY TO ATTRACT A LARGER CROWD TO THE DEMONSTRATION ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN06721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730540/aaaaiopy.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BONN 5762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980116
Subject: FRG PLANS TO RAISE HESS ISSUE WITH SOVIETS DURING BREZHNEV VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, FR, GC, GE, SU, UK, US, WB
To: EUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005